



DECLARATION

As a below named inventor, I declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: HIGH-VACUUM VALVE WITH RETRACTABLE VALVE PLATE TO ELIMINATE ABRASION the specification of which _____ is attached hereto or was filed on July 21, 2003 as Application No. 10/624,083 and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56. I claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Country	Application No.	Date of Filing	Priority Claimed Under 35 USC 119

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

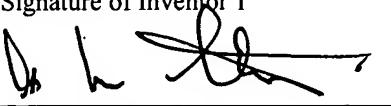
Application No.	Filing Date
60/397,917	7/22/02

I claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application No.	Date of Filing	Status

Full Name of Inventor 1:	Last Name: CONTIN	First Name: JOSE	Middle Name or Initial: L.
Residence & Citizenship:	City: Alameda	State/Foreign Country: California	Country of Citizenship: United States
Post Office Address:	Post Office Address: 389 Capetown Drive	City: Alameda	State/Country: California Postal Code: 94502
Full Name of Inventor 2:	Last Name: ULEA	First Name: NELI	Middle Name or Initial:
Residence & Citizenship:	City: San Ramon	State/Foreign Country: California	Country of Citizenship: Romania
Post Office Address:	Post Office Address: 721 Winterside Circle	City: San Ramon	State/Country: California Postal Code: 94583

I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Signature of Inventor 1	Signature of Inventor 2
	
Jose L. Contin	Neli Ulea
Date 10-27-03	Date 10/13/03

60016247 v1

**POWER OF ATTORNEY OR
AUTHORIZATION OF AGENT**

O I P E
DEC 10 2003
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application Number	10/624,083
Filing Date	July 21, 2003
First Named Inventor	Contin, Jose L.
Title	HIGH-VACUUM VALVE WITH RETRACTABLE VALVE PLATE TO ELIMINATE ABRASION
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	021866-001110US

I hereby appoint:

Practitioners at Customer Number

OR

Practitioner(s) named below:

Name	Registration Number

as my/our attorney(s) or agent(s) to prosecute the application identified above, and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Please recognize or change the correspondence address for the above-identified application to:

The above-mentioned Customer Number.

OR

Practitioners at Customer Number

Firm or Individual Name

Address

Address

City

State

ZIP

Country

Telephone

Fax

I am the:

Applicant/Inventor.

Assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71.
Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed. (Form PTO/SB/96).

SIGNATURE of Applicant or Assignee of Record

Name Joe Brownell

Signature

Date

10-15-03

Telephone

510-265-3800

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below*.

*Total of 1 forms are submitted.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.31 and 1.33. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 3 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

DEC 10 2003

PTO/SB/96 (05-03)

Approved for use through 04/30/2003. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Attorney Docket No. 021866-001110US

STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 3.73(b)

Applicant/Patent Owner: Jose L. Contin and Neli Ulea

Application No./Patent No.: 10/624,083

Filed/Issue Date: July 21, 2003

Entitled: HIGH-VACUUM VALVE WITH RETRACTABLE VALVE PLATE TO ELIMINATE ABRASION

MDC Vacuum Products Corporation, a corporation

(Name of Assignee)

(Type of Assignee, e.g., corporation, partnership, university, government agency, etc.)

states that it is:

1. the assignee of the entire right, title, and interest; or
2. an assignee of less than the entire right, title and interest.
The extent (by, percentage) of its ownership interest is ____ %

in the patent application/patent identified above by virtue of either:

- A. An assignment from the inventor(s) of the patent application/patent identified above. The assignment was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at Reel ____, Frame ____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

OR

- B. A chain of title from the inventor(s), of the patent application/patent identified above, to the current assignee as shown below:

1. From: _____ To: _____

The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at
Reel ____, Frame ____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

2. From: _____ To: _____

The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at
Reel ____, Frame ____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

3. From: _____ To: _____

The document was recorded in the United States Patent and Trademark Office at
Reel ____, Frame ____, or for which a copy thereof is attached.

Additional documents in the chain of title are listed on a supplemental sheet.

Copies of assignments or other documents in the chain of title are attached.

[NOTE: A separate copy (i.e., the original assignment document or a true copy of the original document) must be submitted to Assignment Division in accordance with 37 CFR Part 3, if the assignment is to be recorded in the records of the USPTO. See MPEP 302.8]

The undersigned (whose title is supplied below) is authorized to act on behalf of the assignee.

10-15-03

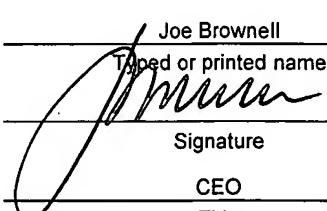
Date

510-265-3800

Telephone number

Joe Brownell

Typed or printed name



Signature

CEO

Title

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 3.73(b). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

Attorney Docket No.: 021866-001110US
Client Reference No.:

ASSIGNMENT OF PATENT APPLICATION

JOINT

WHEREAS, Jose L. Contin of 389 Capetown Drive, Alameda, CA 94502 and Neli Ulea of 721 Winterside Circle, San Ramon, CA 94583 hereinafter referred to as "Assignors," are the inventors of the invention described and set forth in the below-identified application for United States Letters Patent:

Title of Invention: **HIGH-VACUUM VALVE WITH RETRACTABLE VALVE PLATE TO ELIMINATE ABRASION**

Date(s) of execution of Declaration:

Filing Date: **July 21, 2003**

Application No.: **10/624,083; and**

WHEREAS, MDC Vacuum Products Corporation located at 23842 Cabot Boulevard, Hayward, CA, 94545-1661, hereinafter referred to as "ASSIGNEE," is desirous of acquiring an interest in the invention and application and in any U.S. Letters Patent and Registrations which may be granted on the same;

For good and valuable consideration, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged by Assignors, Assignors have assigned, and by these presents do assign to Assignee all right, title and interest in and to the invention and application and to all foreign counterparts (including patent, utility model and industrial designs), and in and to any Letters Patent and Registrations which may hereafter be granted on the same in the United States and all countries throughout the world, and to claim the priority from the application as provided by the Paris Convention. The right, title and interest is to be held and enjoyed by Assignee and Assignee's successors and assigns as fully and exclusively as it would have been held and enjoyed by Assignors had this Assignment not been made, for the full term of any Letters Patent and Registrations which may be granted thereon, or of any division, renewal, continuation in whole or in part, substitution, conversion, reissue, prolongation or extension thereof.

Assignors further agree that they will, without charge to Assignee, but at Assignee's expense, (a) cooperate with Assignee in the prosecution of U.S. Patent applications and foreign counterparts on the invention and any improvements, (b) execute, verify, acknowledge and deliver all such further papers, including patent applications and instruments of transfer, and (c) perform such other acts as Assignee lawfully may request to obtain or maintain Letters Patent and Registrations for the invention and improvements in any and all countries, and to vest title thereto in Assignee, or Assignee's successors and assigns.

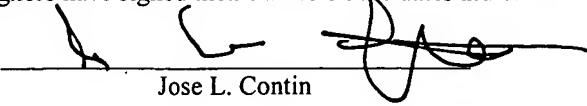
Assignors hereby authorize and request Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP, Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94111-3834, to insert herein above the application number and filing date of said application when known.

COPY

Assignment
Attorney Docket No.: 021866-001110US
Page 2

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, Assignors have signed their names on the dates indicated.

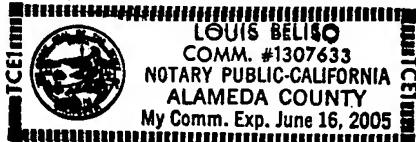
Dated: 10-15-05


Jose L. Contin

STATE OF California ss.
COUNTY OF Alameda

On Oct. 15, 2003, before me, Louis Beliso,
personally appeared Jose L. Contin, personally known to me (or proved to me on the basis of
satisfactory evidence) to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument, and acknowledged to me
that he/she executed the same in his/her authorized capacity, and that by his/her signature on the instrument the
person, or the entity upon behalf of which the person acted, executed the instrument.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.




NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires: June 16, 2005

Assignment
Attorney Docket No.: 021866-001110US
Page 3

Dated: 10/13/03

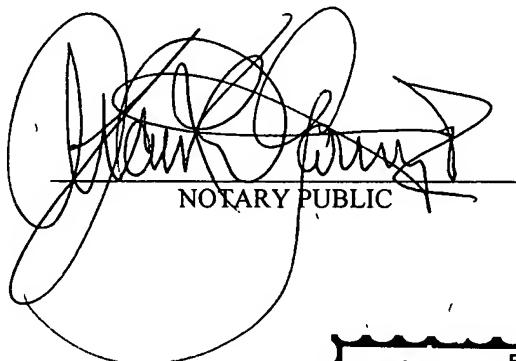
Neli Ulea

Neli Ulea

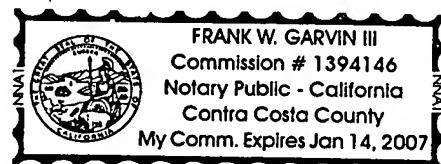
STATE OF California)
COUNTY OF Contra Costa) ss.

On 13 October 2003, before me, Frank W. Garvin III, Notary Public, personally appeared Neli Ulea, personally known to me (or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence) to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that he/she executed the same in his/her authorized capacity, and that by his/her signature on the instrument the person, or the entity upon behalf of which the person acted, executed the instrument.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.


NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires: 1-14-2007



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